

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A die cushion apparatus of a press machine, comprising:
a die cushion pad which is movable up and down according to a pressurizing force externally applied to the die cushion pad;

a first pressure receiving unit comprising a first accommodation unit, a first sliding member and a first hydraulic chamber, the first sliding member being slidably received in the first accommodation unit so as to define the first hydraulic chamber, wherein the first sliding member is caused to slide by a pressurizing force acting upon the die cushion pad to thereby pressurize ~~pressure~~ oil in the first hydraulic chamber; and

a second pressure receiving unit comprising a second accommodation unit, a second sliding member, a second hydraulic chamber and a gas pressure chamber, the second sliding member being disposed between the second hydraulic chamber and the gas pressure chamber, only oil pressure and gas pressure acting on the second sliding member, the second sliding member being slidably received in the second accommodation unit so as to define the second hydraulic chamber and the gas pressure chamber, wherein the second sliding member is caused to slide by a pressure of the first hydraulic chamber to thereby compress gas in the gas pressure chamber.

3. (Currently Amended) A die cushion apparatus of a press machine, comprising:
a die cushion pad which is movable up and down according to a pressurizing force externally applied to the die cushion pad;

a first pressure receiving unit comprising a first accommodation unit, a first sliding member and a first hydraulic chamber, the first sliding member being slidably received in the first accommodation unit so as to define the first hydraulic chamber, wherein the first sliding member is caused to slide by a pressurizing force acting upon the die cushion pad to thereby pressurize ~~pressure~~ oil in the first hydraulic chamber; and

a second pressure receiving unit comprising a second accommodation unit, a second sliding member, a second hydraulic chamber and a gas pressure chamber, the second sliding

member being disposed between the second hydraulic chamber and the gas pressure chamber, only oil pressure and gas pressure acting on the second sliding member, the second sliding member being slidably received in the second accommodation unit so as to define the second hydraulic chamber and the gas pressure chamber, wherein the second sliding member is caused to slide by a pressure of the first hydraulic chamber to thereby compress gas in the gas pressure chamber;

a hydraulic pump that supplies ~~pressure~~ oil to the first hydraulic chamber;

a first check valve that prevents a flow of the ~~pressure~~ pressurized oil from the first hydraulic chamber to the hydraulic pump;

a second check valve that prevents a flow of the ~~pressure~~ pressurized oil from the second hydraulic chamber to the first hydraulic chamber; and

an opening/closing unit that closes a flow of the ~~pressure~~ pressurized oil from the second hydraulic chamber to a hydraulic tank when the second sliding member slides in the direction of compressing the gas in the gas pressure chamber, and opens the flow of the ~~pressure~~ pressurized oil from the second hydraulic chamber to the hydraulic tank when the second sliding member slides in the direction of compressing the ~~pressure~~ pressurized oil in the second hydraulic chamber.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The die cushion apparatus according to claim 3, wherein opening degree of the opening/closing unit decreases according to sliding of the second sliding member in the direction of compressing the ~~pressure~~ pressurized oil in the second hydraulic chamber.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The die cushion apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a first rod connected to the die cushion pad and a second rod connected to the first sliding member, wherein the first and second rods are structured and arranged such that

when the die cushion pad is moved down, the first rod and the second rod are abutted and a pressurizing force acting upon the die cushion pad is applied to the first sliding member.

6. **(Cancelled)**